Wednesday, 28 May, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

**PRODUCERS CONFIDENT THAT MTBE IS NOT AN ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR**

*The European Fuel Oxygenates Association (EFOA) believes a full review of the substance’s REACH registration due in 2014 will conclude that MTBE is not an endocrine disruptor.*

On 22 May 2014, ANSES, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety, published a report evaluating the potential endocrine disrupting properties of five substances, including the fuel oxygenate Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE).

MTBE producers are confident that the results of new experimental studies, which have only recently been included in the substance’s REACH dossier, and an expert review of current literature, underline that MTBE is not an endocrine disruptor.

*“The Industry is confident that MTBE does not meet criteria or definitions of an endocrine disruptor. When the authorities take a look at the updated REACH dossier this will become apparent,”* said Graeme Wallace of the European Fuel Oxygenates Association (EFOA), the industry’s European representative body.

ANSES concludes that its assessment of MTBE comes with a large degree of uncertainty given the limited data available to the Agency at the time of its work.

Recognising the need for such data, the industry recently took the initiative to develop new experimental data on MTBE and a more in depth assessment of worker exposure, ensuring the effectiveness of existing safe handling practices. This data has been included in an update of MTBE’s REACH dossier and is now available to form a key part of France’s evaluation of MTBE under REACH.

*“We agree with ANSES that to fully assess MTBE more data than that examined by the Agency is required. Once ANSES has the opportunity to look at the new data in the updated REACH dossier we believe it will share our conclusion that there are no grounds for concern” explained* Wallace*.*

In 2014, MTBE shall undergo a REACH Substance Evaluation, as part of the European community rolling action plan (CoRAP). The evaluation, which will be performed by ANSES, shall examine the full registration dossier submitted by European producers of the substance.

EFOA holds that “*evaluated for its safety under numerous regulatory frameworks and shown to be safe for humans and the environment, the use of MTBE as a component in fuel provide great environmental benefits, reducing the emissions of volatile compounds from petrol, the overall vapour pressure of gasoline and the related evaporative emissions to air which cause ozone.”*

The European Fuel Oxygenates Association is a sector group of CEFIC, the European Chemical Industry Council.

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